

EXOPLANET EXPLORATION PROGRAM

PATH FORWARD: FUTURE NASA MISSIONS, TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

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February 27, 2014

Exoplanet Missions



The Search for Life in the Universe Requires η_{Earth}

Complete the census

Kepler (warm)

WFIRST μ -lensing (cool)



Find nearby transiting planets

TESS

Characterize super-earth/mini-Neptunes

JWST



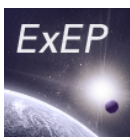
Imaging and Spectroscopy of planets

WFIRST-AFTA coronagraph (Jupiters, Neptunes, Super-Earths)

New Worlds Mission (Earth 2.0)



The Exoplanet Exploration Program: Exploring New Worlds



ExoPlanet Exploration Program

Exploring How the Universe Works
Discovering and Characterizing Exoplanets
Searching for Signs of Life in the Galaxy

Space Missions and Mission Studies

Kepler

AFTA

Probe-Scale:

External Occulter
(Starshade)

Coronagraph

Public Engagement

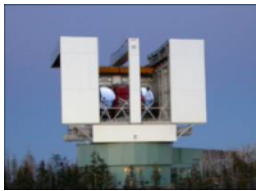


Supporting Research & Technology

Key Sustaining Research



Keck Single Aperture
Imaging and RV



Large Binocular
Telescope Interferometer

Technology Development



High Contrast
Imaging



Deployable
Star Shades

Archives, Tools & Professional Education

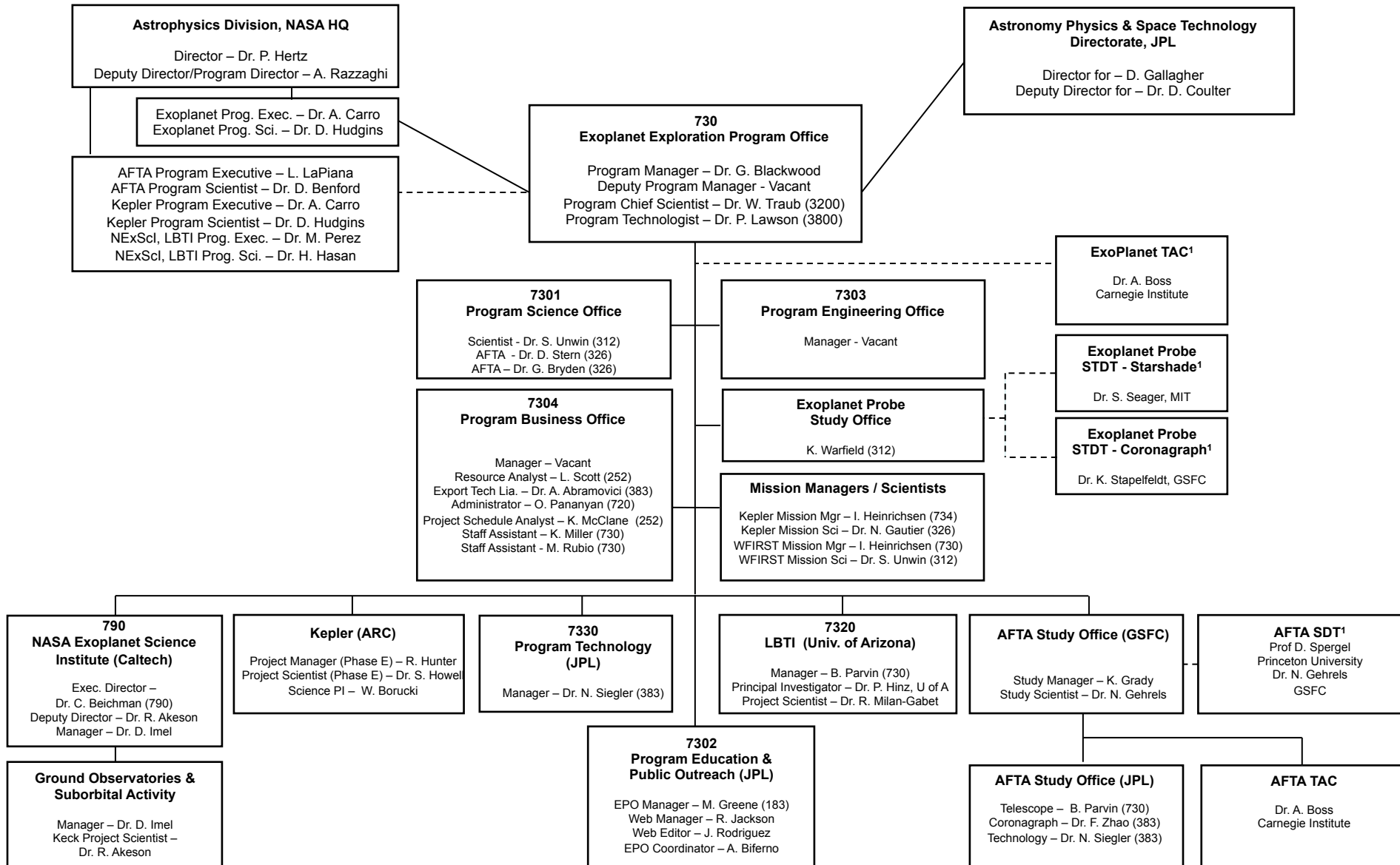


NASA Exoplanet Science Institute

Exoplanet Exploration Program Organization Chart

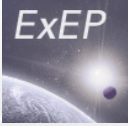


ExoPlanet Exploration Program

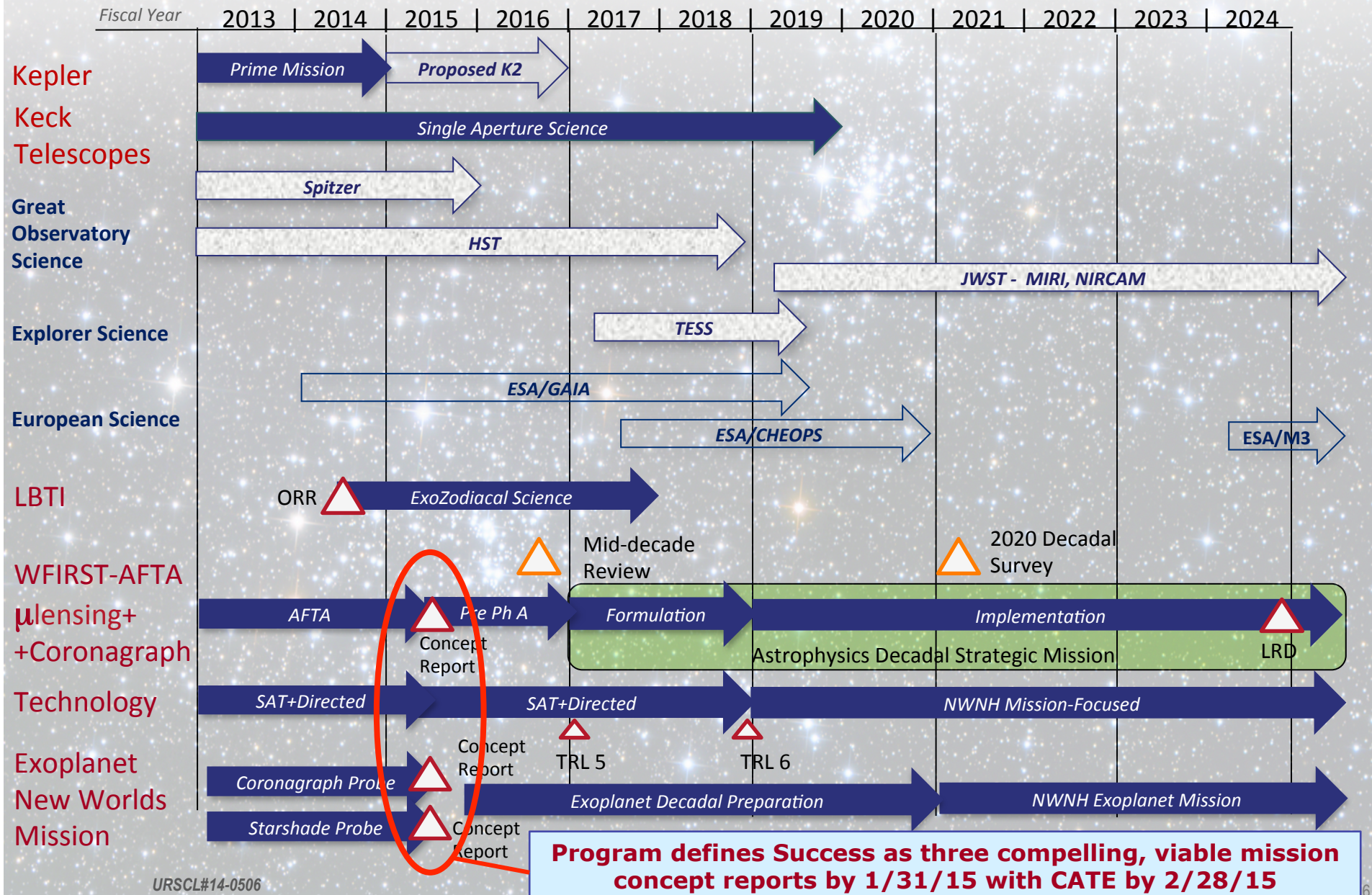


Exoplanet Exploration: A Decade Horizon

NASA and related ESA efforts



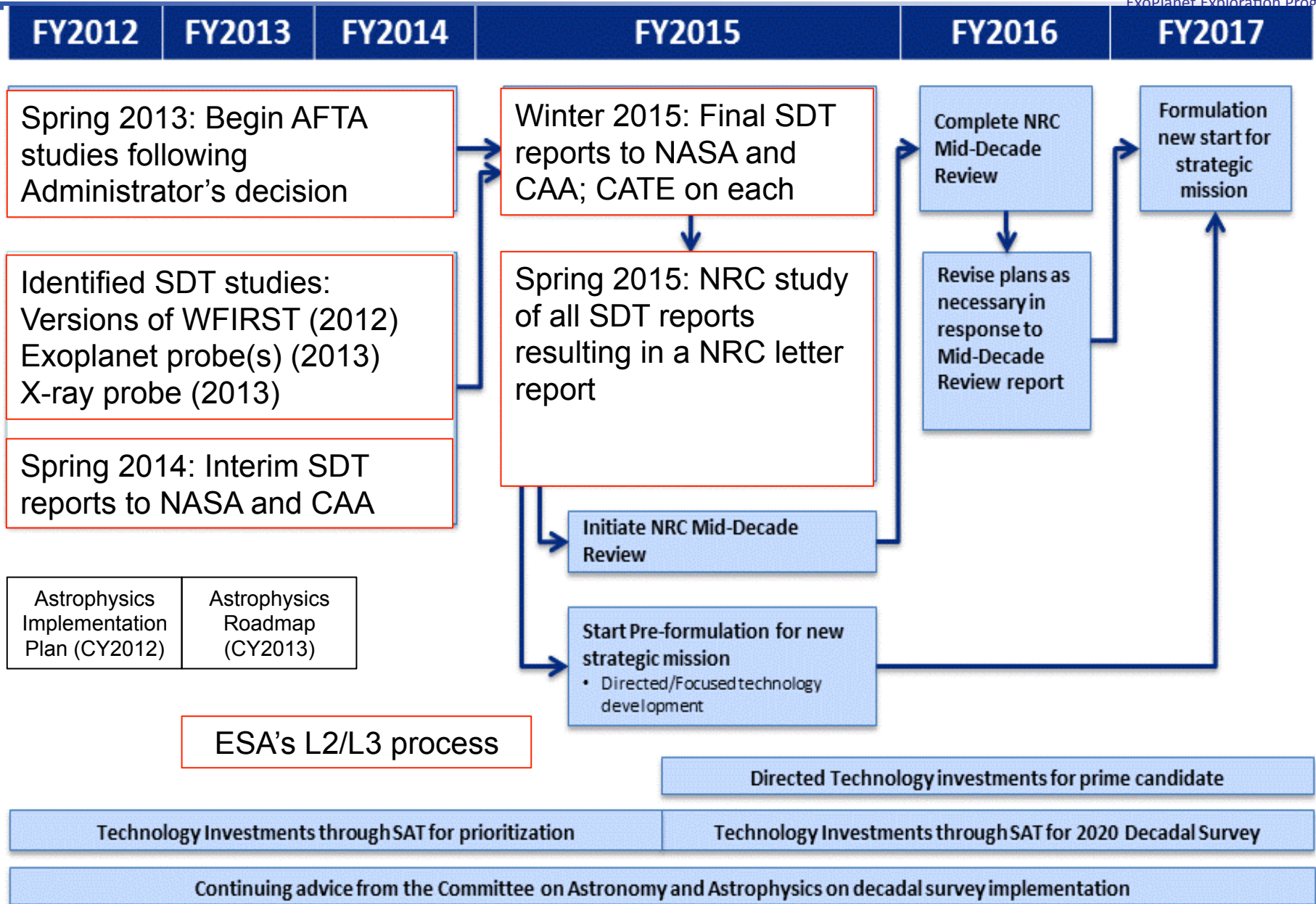
ExoPlanet Exploration Program



Astrophysics Budget Strategy

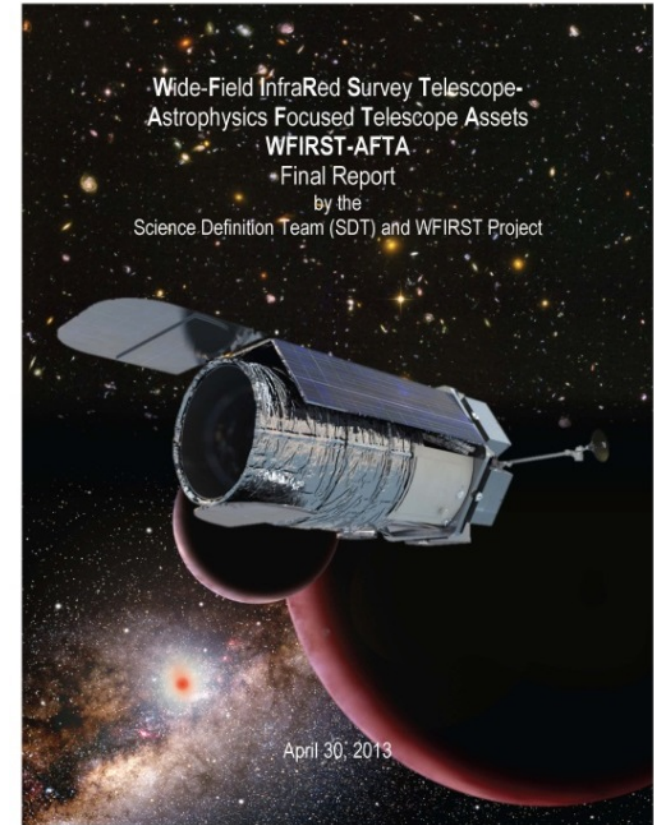
- In order to be prepared for a new mission, a near term program of science definition teams, mission concept studies and technology development is being undertaken with the goal of informing a mid-decade decision on whether to begin formulation.
- Moderate missions (“probes”) are being studied, in addition to a large mission (WFIRST), to be prepared for a mid-decade decision.
- Mission concepts studied derive from the science objectives of the prioritized missions and recommendations in the 2010 Decadal Survey.
 - AFTA (WFIRST using existing 2.4 m telescopes)
 - WFIRST (2 design reference missions already studied, including WFIRST-probe)
 - X-ray Astrophysics Probe (moderate mission addressing IXO science)
 - Exoplanet Probes (moderate missions using internal or external occulters)

Preparing the next strategic mission



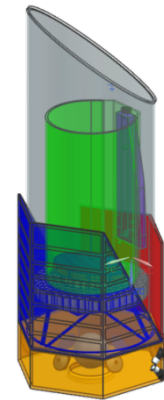
AFTA Coronagraph: Architecture Selection

- AFTA Coronagraph Working Group completed intensive workshops during July-Dec 2013
- 12/23: Coronagraph architectures selected for continued study:
 - Primary: **Occulting Mask Coronagraph (OMC)**, single optical design incorporating both Hybrid Lyot (**HL**) and Shaped Pupil (**SP**) masks
 - Backup: **Phase Induced Amplitude Apodization Complex Mask Coronagraph (PIAA-CMC)**
- Observatory jitter analysis phased forward. Latest jitter estimates (lower) plus re-optimized HL permits detection of ~18 existing RV planets.
- Next steps on coronagraph:
 - Prepare milestones (1/31) and final tech plan (2/28)
 - Implement competed technology per plan (more than just masks)
- H4RG-10 detectors: 3 of 4 under test GSFC

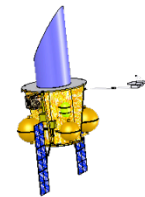
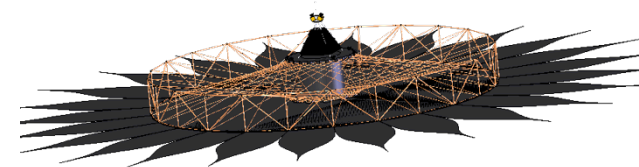


Probe-Scale Missions

- Trades well underway, preparation of interim report
- Initial Aerospace review of baseline concepts
- Science evaluations suggest compelling science
- Exo-C (Coronagraph)
 - Primary mirror 1.5m
 - Kepler-class telescope and spacecraft
 - Thermal and pointing architectures settled
 - Earth-trailing orbit
- Exo-S (Starshade)
 - Earth-leading orbit
 - Starshade stationary, telescope moves
 - Primary mirror 1.1m
- Technology gap lists and plans being prepared, prioritized



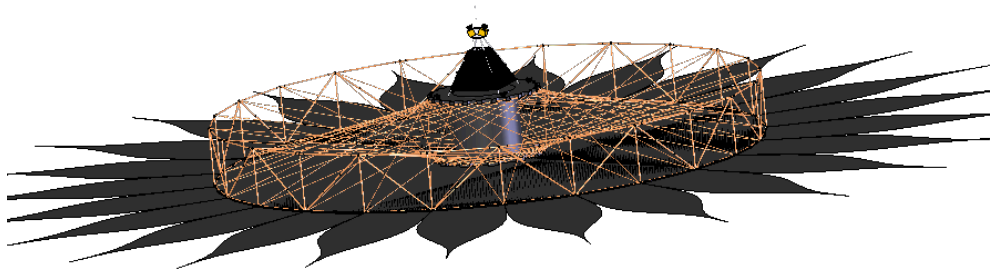
EXO-C



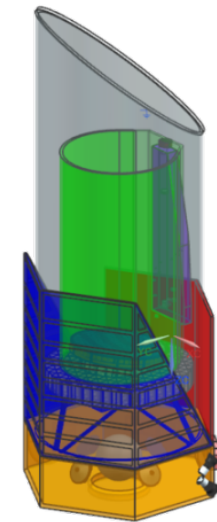
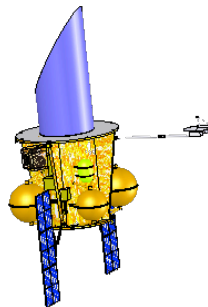
EXO-S

Probe-Scale Missions

- Two probe-scale (\$1B) mission concepts under development by Science and Technology Definition Teams (STDTs)
 - Exo-S (Starshade, or External Occulter) Sara Seager, MIT, chair
 - Exo-C (Coronagraph) Karl Stapelfeldt, GSFC, chair
- Purposes: Alternatives for FY17 new mission start, motivate technology investments, potential candidates for 2020 Decadal



External Occulter



Coronagraph

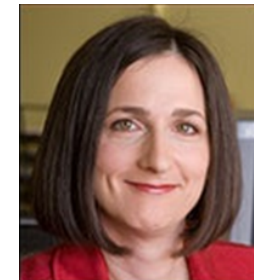
STDT Membership

Last	First	Organization
* Stapelfeldt	Karl	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Belikov	Rus	NASA Ames Research Center
Bryden	Geoff	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Cahoy	Kerri	Massachusetts Inst. of Technology
Chakrabarti	Supriya	Univ. of Massachusetts, Lowell
Marley	Mark	NASA Ames Research Center
McElwain	Michael	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Meadows	Vikki	Univ. of Washington
Serabyn	Gene	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Trauger	John	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
* Chair		



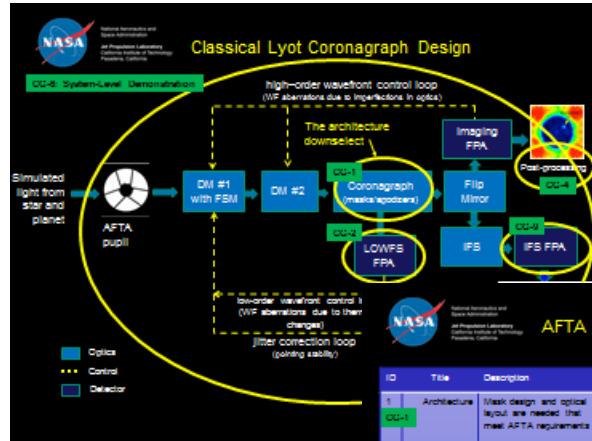
Karl Stapelfeldt
GSFC
Chairperson

Last	First	Organization
* Seager	Sara	Massachusetts Inst. of Technology
Cash	Webster	Univ. of Colorado
Domagal-Goldman	Shawn	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Kasdin	N. Jeremy	Princeton Univ.
Kuchner	Marc	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Roberge	Aki	NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Shaklan	Stuart	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Sparks	William	Space Telescope Science Institute
Thomson	Mark	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Turnbull	Margaret	Global Science Institute
* Chair		



Sara Seager
MIT
Chairperson

Prioritization: the Technology Gap List



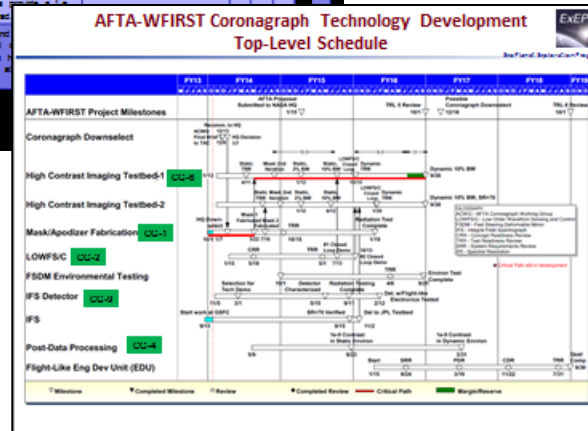
- Technology gaps identified and described, gaps technically quantified

AFTA Coronagraph Technical Gap List (1/2)

ID	Title	Description	Current	Required	I	U	T
1	Architecture	Mask design and optical layout are needed that meet AFTA requirements	Two architectures have provided a 10 ⁴ raw contrast with unobscured pupil	One or more architectures that meet requirements with AFTA pupil providing a 10 ⁴ raw contrast	H	H	M
2	Low-order Wavefront Sensing & Control	Slowly varying large-scale optical aberrations may mimic the signature of an exoplanet	Tip/tilt errors have been sensed and corrected in vacuum at sub-MHz frequencies	Tip/tilt, focus, astigmatism, and coma sensed and corrected simultaneously	H	H	M
3	Breadboard demonstration	High-fidelity laboratory contrast demonstrations must include simulated science targets and light-like perturbations	Simulated star only (no planet) in vacuum with semi-static wavefront errors	Testing in a light-like environment with star, planet, and OTA simulator for the downstream of final architecture	H	H	M
5	Visible-IR Detectors	Low-noise detectors are needed to enable the characterization of exoplanet spectra	Si detectors cooled to 150 K provide the required dark current. CMOS sensors are in non-vac	Dark current < 0.001 e/p/s and read noise < 0.1 e/p/s in a GSO readout environment.	H	H	M
4	Data Architecture post-processing	Software algorithms are needed to detect planets in data dominated by speckle noise	LOD and principal analysis of planets at 10 ⁴				

- Prioritized for relative Importance, Urgency, and Trend

- AFTA TGL described to SMD/STMD
- Next steps: do same for Starshade, Probe Coronagraph



- Plans created to retire the top priorities in time

Technology Gap Lists: Key Gaps

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STARSHADE

ID	Title	Description
S-1	Control of Scattered Sunlight	Sunlight scattered from starshade edges and surfaces risks being the dominant source of measurement noise.
S-2	Starshade Deployment	Demonstrate that an starshade can be deployed to within the budgeted tolerances.
S-3	Validation of starshade optical models	Experimentally validate the equations that predict the contrasts achievable with a starshade
S-4	Thermal & Mechanical Dynamic Stability	The deployed tolerances must be maintained under typical observing conditions, including starshade rotation.
S-5	Formation Flying GN&C	Demonstrate that the GN&C system for an occulter will enable the required slew from star to star and positional stability for science observations.
S-6	Flight Performance System Modeling	Demonstrate using experimental data and validated thermo-mechanical and optical models that the full-scale flight occulter will achieve its baseline performance.

- Gap lists are work-in-progress by Probe STDs, per their charter
- These program summaries will form basis of next Technology Plan Appendix, referenced by TDEM-13 call
- Intended Result: quality proposals that address the breadth of top priorities

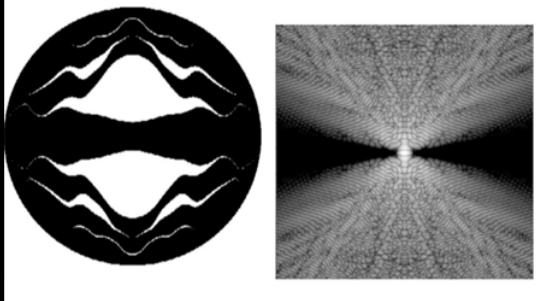
See Lawson, AAS 2014, and upcoming Tech Plan Appendix

CORONAGRAPH

ID	Title	Description
C-1	Starlight suppression optics	Masks, apodizers, or beam-shaping optics to provide improved planet detection capability.
C-2	Low-order Wavefront Sensing & Control	Slowly varying large-scale optical aberrations may mimic the signature of an exoplanet.
C-3	Exoplanet detection under flight-like conditions	High-fidelity laboratory contrast demonstrations that include simulated science targets and flight-like perturbations.
C-4	Deformable mirrors	Maturation of deformable mirror technology to flight readiness.
C-5	Pointing Control System Design	Validation of pointing control design for instrument fine steering mirror and spacecraft body pointing.
C-6	Flight Performance System Modeling	Demonstrate using experimental data and validated thermo-mechanical and optical models that the full-scale flight coronagraph will achieve its baseline performance.

Coronagraph Technologies

SPC



Pupil Masking (Kasdin, Princeton University)

- ExEP Technology Plan Appendix:
- <http://exep.jpl.nasa.gov/technology/>

Table A.3 Coronagraph Technology Gaps Listed in Priority Order.

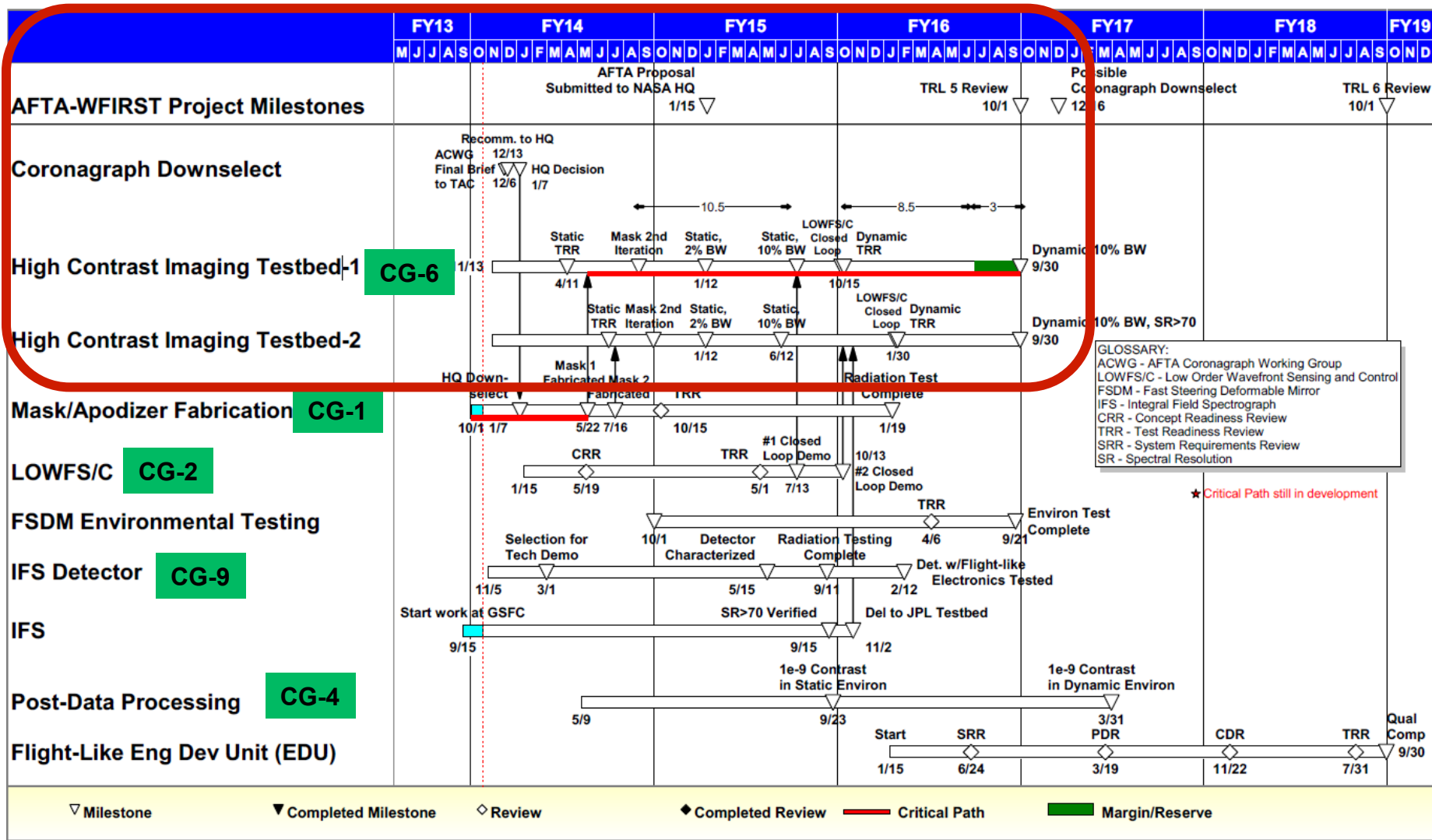
ID	Title	Description	Current	Required
C-1	Specialized Coronagraph Optics	Masks, apodizers, or beam-shaping optics to provide improved planet detection capability.	A linear mask design has yielded 3.2×10^{-10} mean raw contrast from $3-16 \lambda/D$ with 10% bandwidth using an unobscured pupil in a static lab demonstration.	Circularly symmetric masks with a larger discovery space and IWA $\leq 3\lambda/D$ with contrasts $\leq 1 \times 10^{-9}$ for NWNH.
C-2*	Low-order Wavefront Sensing & Control	Slowly varying large-scale optical aberrations may mimic the signature of an exoplanet.	Tip/tilt errors have been sensed and corrected in vacuum with a stability of $0.001 \lambda/D$ at sub-Hertz frequencies.	Tip/tilt, focus, astigmatism, and coma sensed and corrected simultaneously to maintain raw contrasts of $\leq 1 \times 10^{-9}$ for NWNH.
C-3*	Coronagraph System-level Performance Demonstration	High-fidelity laboratory contrast demonstrations that include simulated science targets and flight-like perturbations.	Star-only (no planet) contrast demonstrations in vacuum with an unobscured pupil and semi-static wavefront errors.	Testing in a flight-like dynamic environment with star, planet, and optical telescope assembly simulator with the telescope-specific pupil obscuration.
C-4*	Ultra-low Noise Detector	Low-noise detectors for exoplanet characterization with an Integral Field Spectrograph.	Read noise of $< 1 \text{ e}^-/\text{pixel}$ has been demonstrated with EMCCDs in a $1\text{k} \times 1\text{k}$ format.	Read noise $< 0.1\text{e}^-/\text{pixel}$ in a $\geq 2\text{k} \times 2\text{k}$ format in a flight-like radiation environment.
C-5	Deformable mirrors	Maturation of deformable mirror technology toward flight readiness.	Xinetics DMs and MEMS DMs have undergone partial environmental testing (see text).	Development of flight-like electronics. Full environmental system testing with post-test performance validation.
C-6*	Post-processing of Data	Techniques are needed to characterize exoplanet spectra from residual speckle noise for typical targets.	Planets with contrasts between 10^{-5} and 10^{-6} have been detected in the near infrared.	Techniques must enable exoplanet characterization of exoplanets with contrasts $\leq 10^{-10}$ for NWNH.

*Topic being addressed by directed-technology development for the AFTA coronagraph. To avoid redundancy, coronagraph technologies that will be substantially advanced under the AFTA-WIFIRST technology development are not eligible for under the auspices of the SAT Program.

AFTA-WFIRST Coronagraph Technology Development Top-Level Schedule



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Exoplanet Missions



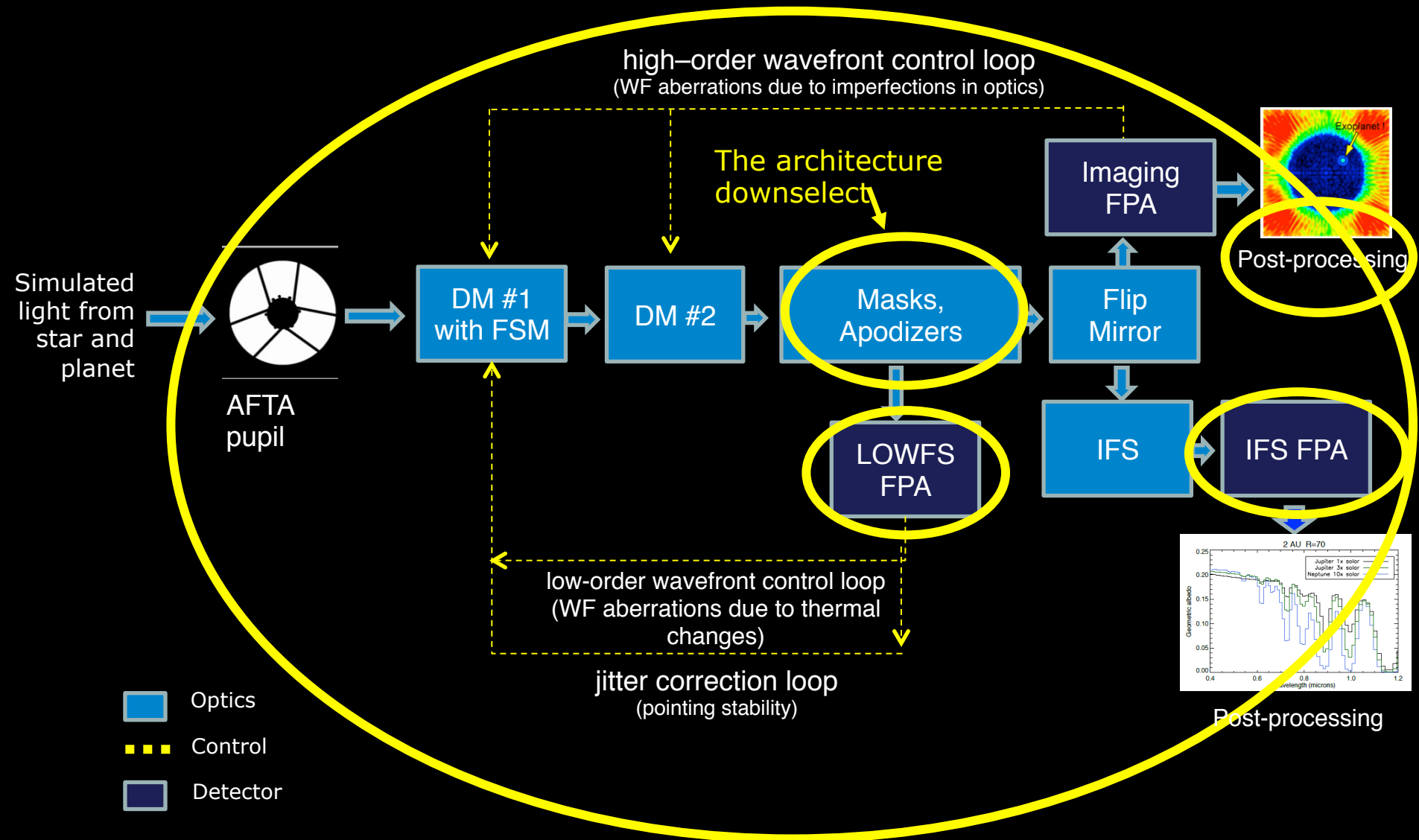
BACKUP

Coronagraph Instrument: Several Technologies

Example: Classical Lyot Coronagraph Design

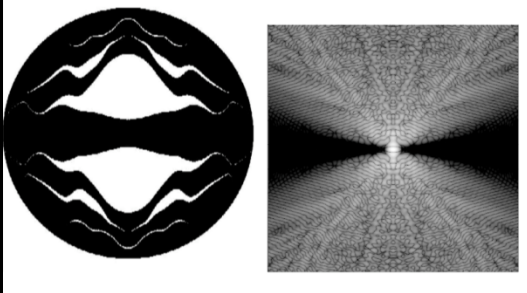


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Coronagraph Mask Architectures

SPC



Pupil Masking (Kasdin, Princeton University)

HLC

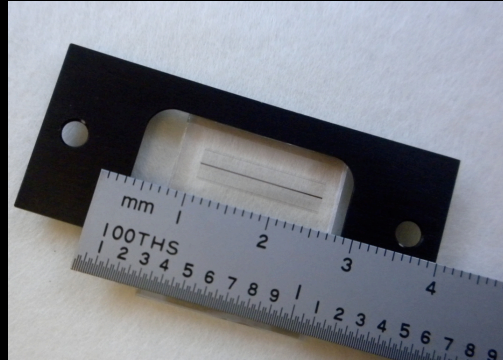
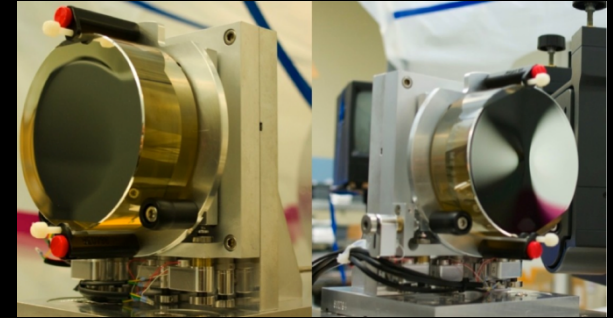


Image Plane Amplitude & Phase Mask (Trauger, JPL)

PIAACMC



Pupil Mapping (Guyon, Univ. Arizona)

VVC

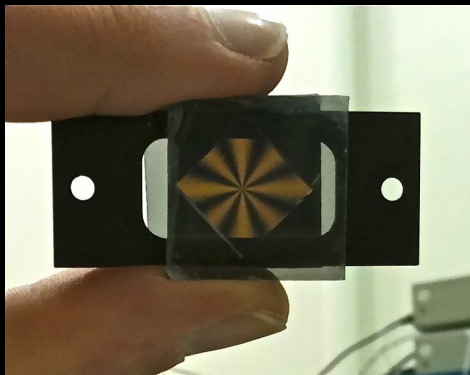
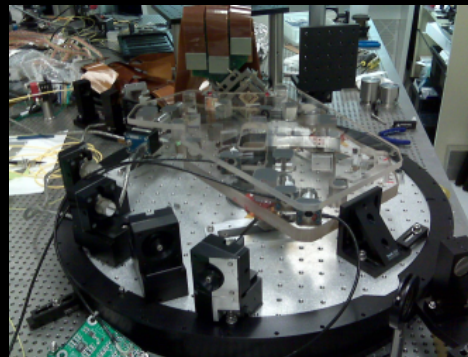


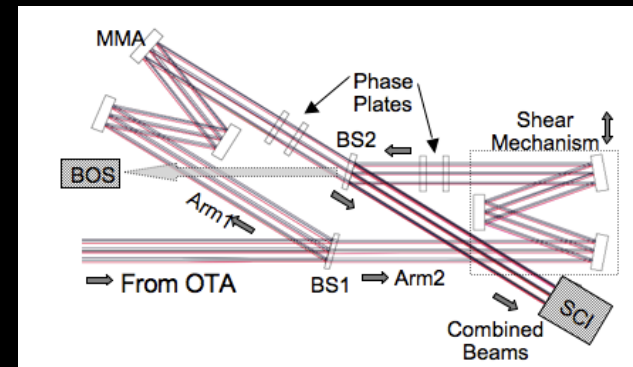
Image Plane Phase Mask (Serabyn, JPL)

VNC(2) - DAVINCI



Visible Nuller - DAVINCI (Shao, JPL)

VNC-PO



Visible Nuller - Phase Occulting (Clampin, NASA GSFC)